

REPORT

ON

NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 4th February 1899.

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		Nil.	

LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	REMARKS.
BENGALI.					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Bangavasi" ...	Calcutta ...	25,000		
2	"Basumati" ...	Ditto ...	15,000	2nd February, 1899.	
3	"Hitavadi" ...	Ditto ...	About 4,000	27th January, 1899.	
4	"Mihir-o-Sudhakar" ...	Ditto ...	1,600	27th " "	
5	"Prativasi" ...	Ditto ...	.....	30th " "	
6	"Samay" ...	Ditto ...	3,000	3rd February, 1899.	
7	"Sanjivani" ...	Ditto ...	3,000	28th January, 1899.	
8	"Som Prakash" ...	Ditto ...	1,000	23rd " "	
<i>Daily.</i>					
1	"Samvad Prabhakar" ...	Calcutta ...	2,000	30th and 31st January, and 2nd and 3rd February, 1899.	
2	"Samvad Purnachandrodaya" ...	Ditto ...	200	30th and 31st January, and 1st and 2nd February, 1899.	
HINDI.					
<i>Fortnightly.</i>					
1	"Marwari Gazette" ...	Calcutta ...	400		
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Bharat Mitra" ...	Calcutta ...	.....	30th January, 1899.	
2	"Hindi Bangavasi" ...	Ditto ...	6,500	30th " "	
PERSIAN.					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Hablul Mateen" ...	Calcutta ...	.....	30th January, 1899.	
2	"Mefta-hur-zafar" ...	Ditto ...	.....	1st February, 1899.	
URDU.					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Darussaltanat and Urdu Guide." ...	Calcutta ...	320	26th January, 1899.	
2	"General and Gauhariasfi" ...	Ditto ...	330		
<i>Tri-weekly.</i>					
1	"Nusrat-ul-Islam" ...	Calcutta ...	.....	27th January, 1899.	
BENGALI.					
<i>Fortnightly.</i>					
1	"Ulubaria Darpan" ...	Ulubaria ...	.....	
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Bangabandhu" ...	Chandernagore ...	.....	27th January, 1899.	
2	"Bankura Darpan" ...	Bankura ...	572	1st February, 1899.	
3	"Burdwan Sanjivani" ...	Burdwan ...	240	24th and 31st January, 1899.	
4	"Chinsura Vartavaha" ...	Chinsura ...	400	29th January, 1899.	
5	"Education Gazette" ...	Hooghly ...	1,350	6th and 27th January, 1899.	
6	"Pallivasi" ...	Kalna ...	475	25th January, and 1st February, 1899.	
BENGALI.					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Murshidabad Hitaishi" ...	Berhampore, Murshidabad.	655	1st February, 1899.	
2	"Pratikar" ...	Ditto ...	603	27th January, 1899.	

LIST OF NEWSPAPERS—concluded.

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	REMARKS.
	URIYA.	ORISSA DIVISION.			
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Sambalpur Hitaishini" ...	Bamra in the Central Provinces.	.....	23rd November, 1898.	This paper is said to have some circulation in the Division, but the number of subscribers could not be ascertained.
2	"Sambad Vahika" ...	Balasore ...	150	24th " "	
3	"Uriya and Navasambad" ...	Ditto ...	309	30th " "	
4	"Utkal Dipika" ...	Cuttack ...	400	26th " "	
	HINDI.	PATNA DIVISION.			
	<i>Monthly.</i>				
1	"Bihar Bandhu" ...	Bankipur ...	About 600		
	URDU.				
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Al Punch" ...	Bankipur ...	500	27th and 30th January, 1899.	
2	"Gaya Punch" ...	Gaya ...	400		
	BENGALI.	RAJSHAHI DIVISION.			
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Hindu Ranjika" ...	Boalia, Rajshahi ...	243	25th January, 1899.	This paper is not regularly published for want of type.
2	"Kangal" ...	Cooch Behar ...	.....	1st February, 1899.	
3	"Rangpur Dikprakash" ...	Kakina, Rangpur ...	180		
	HINDI.				
	<i>Monthly.</i>				
1	"Darjeeling Mission ke Masik Samachar Patrika."	Darjeeling ...	.....	.....
	BENGALI.	DACCA DIVISION.			
	<i>Fortnightly.</i>				
1	"Faridpur Hitaishini" ...	Faridpur ...	755	28th January, 1899.	
2	"Kasipur Nivasi" ...	Kasipur, Barisal ...	315	28th " "	
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Charu Mihir" ...	Mymensingh ...	900	23rd January, 1899.	
2	"Dacca Prakash" ...	Dacca ...	2,400	29th " "	
3	"Sanjay" ...	Faridpur ...	.....	
4	"Sarasat Patra" ...	Dacca ...	About 500	28th " "	
	ENGLISH AND BENGALI.				
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Dacca Gazette" ...	Dacca ...	500	30th January, 1899.	
	BENGALI.	CHITTAGONG DIVISION.			
	<i>Fortnightly.</i>				
1	"Tripura Hitaishi" ...	Comilla ...	450		
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Sansodhini" ...	Chittagong ...	120	25th January, 1899.	
	BENGALI.	ASSAM.			
	<i>Fortnightly.</i>				
1	"Paridarsak" ...	Sylhet ...	.....	
2	"Silchar" ...	Silchar, Cachar ...	340		

I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

The *Hablul Mateen* of the 30th January says that the Egyptian Press is displeased to see that Egypt will not in any way benefit by the conquest of the Soudan. The Egyptian desired the conquest of the Soudan more than the English; but now that its conquest is an accomplished fact, Egypt is going to be made a British protectorate.

HABLUL MATEEN,
Jan. 30th, 1899.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

2. The *Charu Mihir* of the 23rd January says that the people of Tangail have been very much alarmed in consequence of a large number of dacoities having occurred of late in that subdivision. In the three or four cases which lately occurred in Falada, Sialkhol and the neighbouring villages not a single offender has yet been traced. On the 12th January last the dacoits, about twenty-five or thirty in number, took away booty of considerable value from the house of Gaur Chandra Banik of Kokdahara, within the jurisdiction of the Kalihati police-station, and committed great oppression on the inmates. As the police of Tangail have proved perfectly unfit to grapple with the situation, nay, are said to have taken the dacoits under their protection, the Magistrate and the District Superintendent of Police are requested to take effective measures for the protection of life and property. A detective officer ought to be brought up from Calcutta for tracing the dacoits.

CHARU MIHIR,
Jan. 23rd, 1899.

3. A correspondent complains in the *Hitavadi* of the 27th January that the new arrangements regarding the *chaukidari chakran* lands will be a decided injustice to the *chaukidars* as well as to the village public. Formerly the village public had not to pay anything to the *chaukidars*, who lived contentedly on the produce of the *chakran* lands, of which there were many *bighas* in every village. According to the new arrangements, the *chaukidars* will be deprived of these lands, and will be paid a monthly salary of about Rs. 6. Half the rent of the *chakran* lands will belong to the zamindar and half to the village public; but this half will not be sufficient for the purpose of keeping the proper number of *chaukidars* in a village and paying the head panchayat, the *dafadar*, and the collecting panchayat. The village public will have, therefore, to bear the additional cost. The new arrangements will benefit only the zamindar. Let the Government give the *chakran* lands to the *chaukidars*. They will pay a higher rent than the zamindar, and the village public will not have to bear the cost of paying the head panchayat and other functionaries.

HITAVADI,
Jan. 27th, 1899.

4. The same paper complains that a theft was committed in the house of one Dwarikanath Ghosal of Hanral, a village in the Hooghly district. Dwarikanath caught hold of one of the thieves, but another thief severely struck him in the head with an iron implement and killed him on the spot. The Dhaniakhali police has, up to this time, failed to trace the offenders.

HITAVADI.

5. The *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* of the 27th January has an extra sheet containing advertisements for the sale of two books—"সচিত্র কলিকাতার বেশ্যা লীলা" or "Doings of prostitutes in Calcutta, with illustrations," and "সচিত্র লজ্জতনুসেবা" "Lajjatunnessa, with illustrations," which appear from the descriptions given of them to be books of an obscene nature.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,
Jan. 27th, 1899.

Two obscene books advertised for sale.

6. A correspondent of the *Prativasi* of the 30th January complains of the inefficiency of the Khulna police. On the 15th January last there was a theft in the house of Babu Bijay Kumar Sen, M.A., Head Master, Senhati High School. The next day the matter was reported to the *sadar* thana, but no police enquiry has as yet been made, although Senhati is only five miles from Khulna. Senhati is an important village. If this is the case here, how much worse must the case be in unimportant and insignificant villages?

PRATIVASI,
Jan. 30th, 1899.

The Khulna police.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

CHARU MIHIR,
Jan. 23rd, 1899.

7. The *Charu Mihir* of the 23rd January has heard that, in the case in which Abdul Mridha and Helil were charged in the Mymensingh Sessions with forcibly carrying away a woman for immoral purposes, and were acquitted in consequence of a majority of the jury returning a verdict of not guilty, an attempt was made by the defence to influence one of the jurors by means of an offer of bribe. The public are for this reason unwilling to accept the verdict as correct. The writer has pointed out on several previous occasions that, owing to the inability of the men who are now selected as jurors to analyse evidence, failure of justice frequently occurs. That such would be the result of eliminating from the jury list the names of most educated men should have been foreseen.

HITAVADI,
Jan. 27th, 1899.

8. In the opinion of the *Hitavadi* of the 27th January, the sentence passed by the Deputy Magistrate of Sealdah on Mr. Moses, a Salt Inspector, and on his peons for assaulting the booking clerk of the Matla station is far from being exemplary. A fine of fifty rupees is not an adequate punishment for one who, knowing the law, conducted himself in the way Mr. Moses did. It is to be hoped that the authorities will consider whether Mr. Moses ought any longer to be entrusted with any responsible duty. The Deputy Magistrate tried his best to have the case settled out of Court, and even went the length of calling the accused to his chamber, where he had a talk with them before the hearing of the case was over. It is said that the District Magistrate has demanded an explanation from the Deputy Magistrate for such conduct.

HITAVADI.

9. A correspondent of the same paper complains that whenever there is a theft in a village in the Bogra district and the police fail to trace the offenders, they report that the offence is the doing of *badmashes* in the village, against whom proceedings should be taken. Cases under section 110 of the Indian Penal Code have consequently become very frequent of late in the district. Lately, a case of this nature was instituted against a talukdar, and the hearing of the case, as fixed, was to be held on the 20th January. The accused engaged Mr. Lal Mohan Ghosh to defend him, and Counsel wanted to know if the case was going to be heard on the day fixed for it. The pleader for the accused was assured by the Deputy Magistrate, in whose Court the case was filed that it was so, but on the 18th January the Magistrate called the Deputy Magistrate to his presence and had the case transferred to his file. The hearing of the case was fixed for the 25th January. This arrangement is likely to cause the accused great inconvenience.

SANJIVANI,
Jan. 28th, 1899.

10. The *Sanjivani* of the 28th January has the following:—

Mr. Grey is the Manager of a tea-garden in Assam. Lately a woman complained before the Extra Assistant Commissioner of the district in which the garden is situated that, though the term of her agreement with the Manager was over, he was not giving her release and that he wanted forcibly to make her minor son a cooly. The Extra Assistant Commissioner passed no order on this complaint for two days, and on the third day told the complainant to come to him two days later. The woman and her son instead of returning to the garden stayed in the town awaiting the Extra Assistant Commissioner's order. A few days later urgent summons was issued by the Extra Assistant Commissioner, Mr. Allen, to both the mother and the son, on the complaint of Mr. Grey, Manager, who had charged the mother with leaving the garden when there were two months still remaining of the term of her agreement, and the son too with a similar offence, the latter being alleged to have taken from Mr. Grey an advance of Rs. 10 and made a contract to serve him for 313 days. On the day fixed for the hearing of this complaint of Mr. Grey's, the accused appeared, but the complainant did not; and though Mr. Grey stated that he had lost the woman's agreement, she offered before the Court to make Mr. Grey full compensation for the loss he had suffered in consequence of her leaving the garden before her time, and she also expressed her willingness to pay back to Mr. Grey the amount which he said he had advanced to her son, but she was not willing to go back to the garden. The Extra Assistant Commissioner could not see his way to accept these

proposals, but told the woman to come again to Court on the day on which Mr. Grey would be present there, and took bail from both the woman and the boy. To understand why such partiality was shown by the Extra Assistant Commissioner to Mr. Grey, it is only necessary to know that Mr. Grey is the son of the Deputy Commissioner of the same district. It is because many officials and their relatives are interested in the tea industry that it is found impossible to check cooly oppression in the tea-gardens.

11. The *Dacca Prakash* of the 29th January has the following reference to the complaints which are made against Maulvi Fazlal Karim, Subdivisional Officer of Munshiganj:—

DACCA PRAKASH,
Jan. 29th, 1899.

The Maulvi Saheb takes things without paying for them; he does not pay the labourers who work for him; he takes bribes and often punishes the innocent and lets off the guilty—these are the complaints we hear against him. These complaints, however, are all based on rumour. No one injured by the Maulvi has ever come to us and personally complained of his conduct, giving trustworthy evidence in support of his statements. We could not place any confidence in these rumours and write against the Maulvi, depending upon one-sided and uncorroborated statements. It requires a judicial trial to determine whether the complaints against the Maulvi are true or not. But a judicial officer has the liberty to do without evidence, oral or documentary, in a trial, and to reject the evidence even of an eye-witness. The Maulvi's proceedings at least have been marked by such liberty. This being the case, what is the use of complaining against him? We have, however, repeatedly shown that *daludali* or party quarrels have not to answer for the complaints against the Maulvi. So far as we know, no Hindu, with the exception of Kali Prasanna Chaudhuri, has complained against the Maulvi, while Musalmans have repeatedly found fault with him. All Hindu pleaders, we see, are on the Maulvi's side, while his opponents cannot get one to plead for them. Hindus have again and again requested us not to write against the Maulvi, but no such request has ever been made to us by a Musalman. To tell the truth, it is the Musalmans who have complained against the Maulvi more than the Hindus, and yet Judge Douglas says that there is a Hindu conspiracy in Munshiganj against the Musalman Deputy Magistrate. In all likelihood, this impression has taken possession of the mind of the higher authorities. If so, what is the use of complaining against the Maulvi?

It is true that Babu Kali Prasanna Chaudhuri being ill-treated by the Maulvi accused him of theft, and it is quite possible that his evidence was not so reliable as to lead a judicial officer to convict the accused on its strength. But so far at least as this particular case is concerned, it was not difficult to determine whether the charge was true or not. There was other available evidence in this case than the deposition of witnesses. The subject-matter of the complaint was a tree, and it could be easily determined whether it belonged to the complainant or to the accused. The stump of the tree alleged to have been cut by the accused was there, and its alleged trunk was also in existence. The Magistrate could have easily seen whether the trunk exactly fitted to the stump. All that was needed was a local enquiry by the Magistrate, which, considering the important nature of the case, ought to have been held. A judicial officer was charged with a serious offence. The Government often appoints costly commissions to try offending judicial officers. Could not the Magistrate in this case take the trouble of instituting a local enquiry on the lines suggested by us? Such an enquiry would have led to a satisfactory decision of the case. If the Maulvi had, after such an enquiry, been found innocent, the complainant ought to have been punished. If he had been found guilty, he might have been let off at least with a warning.

The *Hitavadi* published a serious charge against the Maulvi: it accused him of embezzling public money. But the Government has taken no notice of this charge, either because the money embezzled was small or because it holds the *Hitavadi* in contempt. The higher authorities have supported the Maulvi, and this being the case it is useless to charge him with oppression even if such charge is true. We are not in a position to accuse the Maulvi of any offence without any reliable evidence to prove it; but we have never failed to complain against the Maulvi whenever we have been convinced of the

truth of such complaints. The drivers' strike in Dacca was due to the Maulvi's oppression and highhandedness. He let off the accused in the Sekharnagar murder case. In this very village he pierced the roof of a shop with bullets when out shooting pigeons. Adam Ali and Kadam Ali have been punished by him because they did not give his wife possession of another man's land. It is again owing to him that local self-government has been abolished in Munshiganj.

BASUMATI,
Feb. 2nd, 1899.

12. Babu Kali Prasanna Chaudhuri, writes the *Basumati* of the 2nd February, who has been prosecuted by Maulvi Fazlal Karim under section 211 of the Indian Penal Code, has moved the High Court, and it is said that the Advocate-General has been instructed to show cause why the rule against the Maulvi should not be made absolute. It should be borne in mind, however, that the Maulvi is not interested in this case as a public officer, but as a private gentleman, and one fails to understand why he should receive official help in the matter.

BASUMATI.

13. The same paper is hearing complaints against Babu Akshay Kumar Sen, senior Deputy Collector of Dacca. A correspondent writes that he had lately filed an application in his Court objecting to a public demand. The Deputy Collector took eight days to give his decision in a matter which could have been easily decided in two hours. The Deputy Collector was always found busily reading newspapers and loath to hear the petitioner. Many things more of this nature have been said against the Deputy Collector by the correspondent.

(d)—Education.

PRATIVASI,
Jan. 30th, 1899.

14. A correspondent of the *Prativasi* of the 30th January complains that the arithmetic papers in the last Lower Primary Scholarship Examination in the Rajshahi Circle were unusually stiff. There were nine questions on arithmetic, of which questions 2, 7, 8 and 9 were very stiff—the seventh so stiff that even teachers could not answer it. Will the examiner explain by what rule of arithmetic this question could be solved? The paper on *Subhankari* was unprecedentedly lengthy.

(e)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
Jan. 24th, 1899.

15. A Raniganj correspondent of the *Burdwan Sanjivani* of the 24th January hopes that Kumar Pramatha Nath Malia of Searsole will be appointed to the Commissionership of the local municipality rendered vacant by the resignation of Mr. Maxwell.

SANSODHINI,
Jan. 25th, 1899.

16. The *Sansodhini* of the 25th January complains that the Chittagong Municipality seems unwilling to take even the trouble of keeping clean and in repair the burning ghat which was provided for the public by a private gentleman. The floor of the ghat is now full of holes and ruts, and the excavations over which dead bodies are cremated have become too deep. The ghat is swept by an ordinary mehter with brooms used for every purpose. This must be repugnant to Hindu feeling. The Municipality ought to keep a *muddafarash*, who will sweep the ghat and dispose of unclaimed dead bodies. It will conduce to public convenience if the Municipality keeps firewood for sale at the ghat. The profit derived from such sale will enable the Municipality to keep a *muddafarash* in its pay. The difficulty now experienced in procuring firewood not unfrequently induces people to leave dead bodies half burnt. The practice in which some people indulge of writing with charcoal the names, &c., of dead persons on the walls of the ghat ought to be stopped.

SANSODHINI.

17. The same paper complains that the outdoor patients in the Chittagong General Hospital have to wait long every morning before they can get the needed medical advice. There is only one Assistant Surgeon to do both indoor and outdoor work, and hence this inconvenience. One more dresser and one permanent hospital assistant ought to be given to the hospital.

18. A correspondent of the *Hitavadi* of the 27th January complains against the Burdwan Municipality. A large tank in the heart of the town has been long in an unrepaid condition. Burdwan is a notoriously malarious district. Has the Municipality done anything to improve the sanitary condition of the town? Will the Chairman be kind enough to answer the following questions?—

HITAVADI,
Jan. 27th, 1899.

(1) Does not the present financial condition of the Municipality allow of the construction of drains throughout the town?

(2) Is it impossible to keep the filthy localities in the town clean?

(3) Is it not possible to extend water-supply throughout the town?

(4) Have not about five or seven hundred applications for house-connection been lodged in the Municipal Office?

(5) Are not the applicants entitled to house-connection under Mr. Risley's notification dated 4th March 1897?

(6) Was not the Chairman at first willing to grant the applications for house-connection after they had been passed by the Engineer? Did not the Chairman quarrel with a leading Commissioner and reject his application for house-connection? Has he not since rejected all such applications? Has not the Engineer's report been removed from the record, and did not the Chairman order the Engineer to report that the boiler of the engine will burst if made to bear more pressure?

(7) Has not the Chairman granted house connection in his own house, whilst rejecting other applications for such connection? Are not there more than six taps in his own house?

(8) Is it not true that the wife of the Maharaja's doctor prosecuted the Chairman, and thereby compelled him to grant her application for house-connection?

(9) Are not main pipes wanting in some of the principal thoroughfares of the town?

(10) Cannot the number of main pipes be increased and house-connection extended if the engine is worked under high pressure only twice a day? Ought not another engine to be employed to remove the inconvenience of the people?

(11) Was not the old and infirm Chairman absent in fifty or sixty *per cent.* of meetings during the last session? Is it not painful to him to remain in a sitting posture for more than a quarter of an hour?

19. The *Basumati* of the 2nd February complains that Russa Road South in Bhawanipur is in a filthy condition. The street is not lighted at night. Filth is allowed to accumulate for days, and the footpaths, long out of repair, have become almost impassable. The municipal authorities have been moved again and again in the matter, but without any effect.

BASUMATI,
Feb. 2nd, 1899.

(g)—*Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation.*

20. A correspondent of the *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* of the 27th January complains that the Chalkuta bridge over the Pabna road, which stood near the village Edrakpur, in the Kumarkhali thana of the Nadia district, having been washed away by flood some time ago has not yet been rebuilt, and great hardship is therefore caused to all who have to use the road. As the occurrence of a similar flood has now become an impossibility by reason of the disappearance of the *nalas* which brought down large volumes of water, the bridge ought to be reconstructed. The residents of about 100 or 150 villages suffer for want of a bridge. The District Board ought to take up the work of reconstruction at once.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,
Jan. 27th, 1899.

21. A correspondent of the *Hitavadi* of the 27th January complains that immediately before a train reaches the Allahabad Station, the Eurasian employes of the station with a few railway *jamadars* take their stand in the passage intended for third-class passengers and prevent them from coming to the platform. The correspondent was detained in this way, but on his paying something to the men he was

HITAVADI,
Jan. 27th, 1899.

allowed to come to the platform. The correspondent's charge against the railway employes, says the Editor, is serious. The attention of the authorities should be drawn to the matter.

HITAVADI,
Jan. 27th, 1899.

22. The same paper complains that Mr. Asgar Ali, a native civilian, was lately insulted in a train at the Lahore Station by some European passengers. Asgar Ali arrived at the Lahore Station and was going to enter into a first-class compartment when he found it packed up with luggage. Another first-class compartment was attached to the train, and Mr. Asgar took his seat in it. But the occupants of the other compartment asked him to leave it to them and go to the compartment formerly occupied by them. Mr. Asgar Ali could not comply with this request, as the train was about to start. Upon this the Europeans placed their dogs in Mr. Asgar Ali's compartment, no doubt meaning to annoy him in this way. On Mr. Asgar Ali's remonstrating with them, he was told to complain to the station-master, and when he was going to do so at the next station he was assaulted by the Europeans. It is to be hoped that the Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab will take this matter into his consideration.

HITAVADI.

23. A Bogra correspondent writes as follows in the same paper:—

The Engineer of the Sultanpur-Brahmapur Railway.

Mr. Wood, Engineer of the Sultanpur-Brahmapur Railway, has been transferred because he assaulted a Police Inspector. Mr. Alexander is now the Engineer of the railway. He too, like his predecessor, is not well disposed towards the natives. A few days ago the son of the police head-clerk, aged about ten, had in a playful mood handled the signal-wheel. The Engineer saw this from his tent, and at once pounced upon the boy. He first pulled the boy by the ear, and then thrashed him. Not satisfied with this, he kicked the boy with his booted foot. The boy's father has refrained from complaining against the Engineer, fearing he might lose his post. The authorities should take notice of the conduct of this European Engineer and teach him a lesson.

PRATIVASI,
Jan. 30th, 1899.

24. A correspondent of the *Prativasi* of the 30th January thus complains against the management of the Bengal Central Railway:—

Complaints against the management of the Bengal Central Railway.

(1) The speed of the trains on the Bengal Central Railway is very slow. The Khulna mail, which leaves Khulna at 9-13 P.M., reaches Sealdah at 5 A. M. the next day. The local trains are not only more slow, but more irregular and always late. This causes passengers great loss and inconvenience.

(2) The number of trains also is few. There are not more than three daily trains between Khulna and Calcutta. There were not long ago two more trains—one up, reaching Khulna at 11 P. M. and another down, leaving Khulna early in the morning. There was a collision between a goods train and a passenger train, and that arrangement has now been discontinued. Babu Mati Bhusan Sen of Senhati has sued the Railway Company for damages for injuries received on the occasion of the collision.

(3) Telegrams are not despatched in time. The telegraph clerk receives messages and gives receipts. It is not known whether they are despatched in time. The station staff is always found to be inattentive, indifferent, and remiss.

(4) A timely delivery of parcels by the goods train is not made. The trains are not properly lighted, and when a train reaches a station the name of the station is not loudly called out, as is done on other lines.

(h)—General.

DARUSSALTANAT
AND URDU GUIDE,
Jan. 26th, 1899.

25. A correspondent of the *Darussaltanat and Urdu Guide* of the 26th January says that in his recent visit to the Plague Hospital at Chausa he saw that most of the people that were detained there were healthy and without any disease whatever. The Plague Doctor in that station should be instructed not to put people to unnecessary trouble and to examine passengers on the platform.

26. The *Hitavadi* of the 27th January has learnt from another

The editor of a vernacular newspaper warned by Government.

paper that the editor of a vernacular paper was lately called to the presence of the Police Commissioner of Calcutta and told that objectionable writing had appeared in his paper. He was advised to be more careful in future. The name of this editor has not been given out. One is naturally thrown into fear to see such things happening during Sir John Woodburn's rule.

HITAVADI,
Jan. 27th, 1899.

27. The same paper complains of mismanagement in the Chausa plague hospital. People are unnecessarily and without reason detained in the camp. Lately a Brahmin

HITAVADI.

The Chausa plague camp. servant of Mr. Ananda Charlu, who was coming with his master from Madras, was detained in the camp and was discharged only on a representation made to the authorities by Mr. Charlu. The man so detained was all hale and hearty when he was confined in the camp.

Here is another case. A correspondent writes in the *Bengalee* that he was coming down from Jubbulpore with his family. At the Chausa station the Medical Officer in charge examined his tickets, and being told that he was coming down from Jubbulpore handed them over to the police, who took them to the camp. This correspondent thus complains of mismanagement in the plague camp:—

(1) Females are examined by a male doctor, although there is a female doctor attached to the camp.

(2) The inmates are examined by the doctor in his own room, and the names even of female inmates are called out. This is very objectionable from a native point of view.

(3) When an inmate leaves his room, the room is not cleansed. If another man has to occupy that room, he must either have that room cleansed at his own cost or live in the midst of the filth left by the last occupier.

(4) Screens are not used during the examination of women either on the station platform or in the plague camp. This is contrary to the promise of the authorities conveyed in a letter to the Press.

The attention of the authorities must be repeatedly drawn to these complaints. Let oppression and highhandedness in connection with the inspection of passengers be put down. Let the plague officers be warned against any unnecessary and illegal detention of passengers. Let good and convenient arrangements be made. Let the authorities try their best to remove the cause of discontent. Female honour and chasity are dearer to the Indian than life. Let the officers of the plague camp be instructed to always bear this in mind and act accordingly. The plague rules in this province are not so unpopular as they have been in other parts of the country. It will be a great regret if, through the fault of those who have been entrusted with the carrying out of these rules, anything goes wrong anywhere in the country. Sir John Woodburn has proved a good and beneficent ruler. The public expect him to redress their grievances in connection with the management of the plague camp at Chausa.

28. The *Sanjivani* of the 28th January writes as follows:—

Rumoured conference of Lord Curzon with the tea-planters of Assam.

It is said that Lord Curzon having expressed a wish to see the representatives of the tea-planting community of Assam, such representatives will soon meet His Lordship. We do not know why the Viceroy is so anxious to meet the tea-planters. According to some, His Excellency wants to take the advice of the tea-planters as to the best mode of peopling the wide tracts in Assam which are still uninhabited; and we once heard that zamindari system would be introduced into Assam. Will the tea-planters, then, be made zamindars in Assam? We do not yet know whether the tea-planters are really going to be made zamindars; but if they are made zamindars, more harm than good will be done. Assam will benefit only by land settlements with raiyats. If Government is anxious to create a class of zamindars in Assam, it should make the people of Assam zamindars in their own province. But it would be better to make a raiyatwari settlement. The difficulty, however, of a raiyatwari settlement is in respect of the large tracts of unoccupied land which

SANJIVANI,
Jan. 28th, 1899.

are still plentiful in the province. This difficulty can indeed be solved by making zamindari settlements with the tea-planters. But the tea-planters' method of recruiting labour has ruined whole villages and innumerable poor families in Bengal. It is they who have robbed the Sonthal Parganas and the districts of Chota Nagpur of a considerable portion of their meagre population; and if they are made zamindars, the mischief they do by their labour recruitment will immensely increase. The effect of making a zamindari settlement with the tea-planters will be the complete depopulation of the Sonthal Parganas and Chota Nagpur. We have another objection against such settlement. The effect of an English settlement everywhere has been the impoverishment and even disappearance of the people among whom they have settled. The English are a strong race, whose competition is fatal to all weaker races. If the English become zamindars in Assam, the days of the weak and meek Assamese people will be numbered. Contact with English zamindars has extirpated the aboriginal tribes of America and Australia, and will the result of a similar contact be different in Assam? For this reason only, if for no other, Englishmen should not be made zamindars in Assam.

If Government is anxious to people the uninhabited tracts of Assam, there is an easy way of doing it. Let Government issue and publish in every village in Bengal a proclamation stating that any raiyat desiring to migrate to Assam and settle there will be carried free of cost, will get land free of rent for twenty years, will be granted a permanent right in his tenure, and will get advances of money at low rates of interest for clearing jungle and buying plough cattle at the outset; and we can assure the Government that there will be no lack of emigrants to go over to and settle on the waste lands of Assam. This is no fanciful prediction of ours. In the western parts of the Mymensingh district which borders on Assam, live thousands of cultivators who possess no land and are in an extremely miserable condition. Some of these men have of their own accord migrated to the less thickly-populated parts of the same district, or to Dhubri, Goalpara, and Gauhati in Assam. Let Government only encourage people to migrate and supply them with the necessary funds, and thousands of men from different parts of Bengal will gladly go over to Assam. One may have seen the formation of many new villages every year on the *churs* in the Jamuna river, and raiyats possessing little or no land gladly leave their old ancestral homesteads to take up their residence in such new villages, simply because there is plenty of land to be had there to cultivate. undeterred by the thought of the many disadvantages which they know they will have to contend against at the outset. In Assam new raiyats will have to suffer no disadvantages and inconveniences; and whilst the *churs* in the Jamuna yield only *rabi* crops, the virgin soil of Assam will yield all varieties of crops. Some trouble will have to be undergone for a year or two in the beginning in clearing jungle, but all that trouble and labour will be amply recompensed.

If, however, as is rumoured in certain quarters, the object of a meeting between Lord Curzon and the tea-planters is a discussion of the question of the improvement of the tea industry, which means, in other words, the devising of means to get labour for the tea-gardens more easily than at present, because on the supply of labour depends the ups and downs of the industry, then it is to be hoped that Lord Curzon, thoroughly acquainted as he is expected to be with the tricks and artifices which are employed in recruiting coolies under the existing law, will on no account pass a law which will bear with greater rigour on coolies. We rather hope that a new law, if a new law is at all enacted, will make adequate provision for the protection of poor coolies against the oppressions of tea-planters and *arkatis*. The tale of cooly misery has been several times told in the House of Commons, and Lord Curzon must know all about it. As the result of such agitation, the Secretary of State once went even the length of saying that the cooly law required to be repealed. But his word has not yet been made good. It is not possible that an intelligent man like Lord Curzon is not yet aware of the real character of the Indian cooly law. Every right-minded man will admit that in virtue of that law the tea-planters keep their coolies like so many bond-slaves; and as good work cannot anywhere be got out of slaves, so the tea industry, which depends on the labour of coolies who are treated as slaves, is suffering. It is very different, however, with the tea

industry of Darjeeling and Jalpaiguri, which is in a flourishing condition because it is carried on with free labour.

It is to be hoped that Lord Curzon has invited the representatives of the Assam tea industry to meet him in order that he may consult with them about the repeal of the cooly law.

III—LEGISLATIVE.

29. The *Hindu Ranjika* of the 25th January has the following:—

The *Hitavadi* on the election of the Maharaja of Darbhanga.

The *Hitavadi* has not changed its nature, and it is not expected to soon mend its manners. It abused Raja Sasisekhareswar before he was elected a Member of the Bengal Legislative Council. It has followed the same policy in the case of the Maharaja of Darbhanga.

HINDU RANJIKA,
Jan. 25th, 1899.

Our contemporary will place Surendra and Narendra everywhere. Surendra and Narendra in the Congress, Surendra and Narendra in the Bengal Legislative Council, Surendra and Narendra in the Supreme Legislative Council, Surendra and Narendra everywhere. Are there no other able men in the country? Surendra Babu, it is true, has devoted his life to the service of his country. He is trying his best to do his duty by his countrymen. He has now the liberty of speaking on their behalf. Our contemporary alone knows why he is so willing to deprive Surendra Babu of that freedom of speech. In our opinion Surendra Babu will be able to do more good to the country outside of the Supreme Legislative Council than within it. What good, again, is being done to the country by the native Members of the Councils? What good are they expected to do? Surendra Babu has made lengthy speeches in the Council, but have his speeches prevented the passing of a single objectionable measure? What, again, have Messrs. Charlu and Mehta been able to do?

"Strange to say," writes the *Hitavadi*, "worthless and untruthful men, men who have no substance in them, are elected as members of the Bengal Legislative Council." Let it be proclaimed by beat of drum that if anyone wants to see a man of worth, substance, and truthfulness, a man who always speaks pleasant and at the same time true words—so rare in this world—let him go to the *Hitavadi* office, No. 70, Colootolah Street, Calcutta.

The election of the Maharaja of Darbhanga has really given us great satisfaction. No paper, excepting the *Indian Mirror* and the *Hitavadi*, is dissatisfied with the election.

30. The *Hitavadi* of the 27th January writes as follows with reference

The Indian Contract Act Amendment Bill.

to Mr. Chalmers's speech referring the Indian Contract Act Amendment Bill to a Select Committee:—

Mr. Chalmers's well-reasoned speech has given us satisfaction. It is a great pleasure that the Government is coming to know the real condition of the Indian peasant. There are few in this country to look to the interests of the raiyats, and the Government will earn the gratitude of the Indian public by passing the measure. The Government which wants to be looked upon as the "*ma-bap*" of the people, ought to promote the interests of its distressed subjects in this way.

HITAVADI,
Jan. 27th, 1899.

V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

31. The *Sansodhini* of the 25th January draws attention to the fact that

Rent collections in the storm-stricken portions of Chittagong.

hardly a year is over when some zamindars in the storm-stricken portions of Chittagong, who received remissions of revenue from the Government, are suing their tenants for arrears of rent. They remitted the rent for the year for which they themselves received remissions of revenue, and are suing the raiyats for the rents of the years preceding that year. The conduct of these zamindars is simply monstrous. Could they not wait a little longer or realise their dues by instalments that would have been convenient to the raiyats?

SANSODHINI,
Jan. 25th, 1899.

VI—MISCELLANEOUS.

HITAVADI,
Jan. 27th, 1899.

32. The *Hitavadi* of the 27th January writes as follows with reference to Lord Curzon's reply to the address of the Bengal National Chamber of Commerce:—

The Viceroy's reply to the address of the Bengal National Chamber of Commerce.

In his reply to the address of the Bengal National Chamber of Commerce, Lord Curzon, after paying the deputation his compliment, touched upon a new subject. He quoted facts and figures to show that Bengalis are very voluble, but backward in industrial and commercial activity. Lord Curzon is the first Viceroy who, unmoved by a flattering address, has spoken out the truth for the good of the country. It reflects great credit on Lord Curzon that he has gained so much experience of the country within so short a time. The new Viceroy is already giving proofs that he will not helplessly depend upon others for the administration of the country. This leads us to hope that his rule will be a highly beneficial one for us.

HITAVADI.

33. In the opinion of a correspondent of the same paper, this year's unprecedented cold is due to the earth coming close to the meteoric region in its motion round the sun, which region it will pass by the 14th or 15th November next. This zone of meteors has no doubt partially intercepted the sun's rays, as it did also in the year 1866 to 1867, when the cold was severe and there was a fall of snow, as in this year, in Shillong. Next year also, if the calculation is right, there will be severe cold in this country.

The unprecedented cold of this year.

FARIDPUR
HITAISHINI,
Jan. 28th, 1899.

34. The *Faridpur Hitaishini* of the 28th January complains that in the

Sale of intoxicating drugs, &c., in an Exhibition.

last Faridpur Agricultural Exhibition wine, *ganja*, opium, and other intoxicating drugs were sold. A proposal for the sale of these intoxicating articles was made some time ago, but was rejected by the *mela* authorities. Was their permission received this year? Was the permission of the municipality also received? It is a matter of great regret that intoxicating liquor and drugs were sold in an agricultural exhibition.

SARASWAT PATRA,
Jan. 28th, 1899.

35. The *Saraswat Patra* of the 28th January contains the following:—

The Lieutenant-Governor on the Hindu's devotion to his mother.

In the course of his speech at the Brahma Girls' School in Calcutta, Sir John Woodburn said that though the Hindu loved his wife tenderly and did his best to please her, in a Hindu home the mother was the first object of worship and was supreme mistress over all, and that a Hindu's devotion to his mother had not its parallel in any other country. Sir John must be sincerely attached to the people of this country to have such a vivid appreciation of their virtues. What His Honour said is true to the letter. India, and particularly Hindu India, has always felt the deepest affection and reverence for the mother. To a Hindu, the mother is higher and greater than even heaven. A Hindu will make his obeisance first to his mother and then to his father. He loves the very name "माँ," mother, so dearly that he delights to call even his God by that name. It is because Hindu India looks upon the Empress as its mother, that it is so fond of her. It is true a Hindu is now-a-days found here and a Hindu is now-a-days found there who does not pay to his mother the reverence which is due to her, and goes even the length of ill-treating her. But this is only a momentary mood of the Hindu, which the perverse nature of the times has produced and which is sure to pass away. The Hindu, at least, hopes so.

SARASWAT PATRA.

36. The same paper has the following:—

Lord Curzon.

Lord Curzon has assumed the reins of office as the representative of our Sovereign, and is the undisputed lord of this vast Indian empire. He is now, indeed, so great a man and holds so exalted a position that for humble and insignificant creatures like ourselves to seek to approach him will be like the dwarf's stretching out his hands to catch the moon in the sky. Still we want to examine Lord Curzon and examine him thoroughly. However high and exalted Lord Curzon's position may be, and however small and humble creatures we ourselves may be, there is no gainsaying that it is he who is intended for us and not we who are intended for him. However great and able Lord Curzon may be, he is now the representative of Her Majesty the Empress, whom we love and

reverence as a mother and who, on her part, is always anxious to protect us as her children. If within his man's body Lord Curzon does not contain a mother's heart he cannot be for India a fit representative of her universally revered mother. It is because Lord Curzon is the representative of our mother, that we Indians, however humble we may be, feel no fear or hesitation in approaching him. And like children we ask him—Open the door of your heart to us, and let us see how much of a mother's kindness and tenderness and how much of our royal mother's affection for her subjects are there.

37. Referring to Lord Curzon's reply to the address of the Bengal National Chamber of Commerce, the *Sanjivani* of the 28th January writes as follows:—

Lord Curzon on industrialism in Bengal.

Lord Curzon has acted like a real friend of ours by pointing out to us our shortcomings. In Bengal, there is no want of capital, but there is a lack of training and capacity for work. It is the disgrace of Bengal that, whilst Bombay, Nagpur, Lucknow and Delhi possess a large number of cotton and paper mills managed and worked by natives alone, she cannot boast of a single mill worked by her own sons. It is hoped that Lord Curzon's mild reproach will not go for nothing, and will induce the National Chamber of Commerce, for the sake of its honour, to take up in all earnestness the cause of the industrial improvement of their country, and to establish some cotton, jute and paper mills under native management. That body should at once send some native youths to Bombay for training. Shame, shame, that all the jute mills in Bengal should be managed by Europeans and all the cotton mills by Parsis or Europeans! There are many rich and educated men in the Chamber. Raja Sri Nath Rai, who is its life and soul, and his brothers can between themselves establish two or three mills, without taking the help of anybody else. They should hasten to retrieve the honour of the Chamber and their own honour. The new Viceroy is not the man to be deluded with empty words. He wants solid, substantial work, and will help only those whom he finds in a position to help themselves. If the National Chamber of Commerce can show no real work, let it not again show its face to Lord Curzon.

38. The *Chinsura Vartavāha* of the 29th January has the following:—

The rejoicing over Lord Curzon's arrival.

Lord Elgin has departed and Lord Curzon has made his auspicious advent. A good deal is being said about the departure of the one and the coming of the other. Many people are transported with joy at finding in Lord Curzon's speeches sentiments similar to those which were expressed by Lord Ripon. But why such rejoicing and indulgence in sanguine hopes at seeing this resemblance? We, for our part, believe that the new Viceroy will conduct himself exactly like the Viceroy who has gone away. Those who think differently are mistaken, and have not yet been able to penetrate into the secret of British statecraft.

39. The *Prativasi* of the 30th January has the following on Lord Curzon's reply to the address of the Bengal National Chamber of Commerce:—

Lord Curzon on industrialism in Bengal.

What is the reply to all this? Why should the state of things be such? What is the remedy for this evil?—if the Bengal National Chamber of Commerce does not discuss these questions among themselves, then must we say that Lord Curzon has cried in the wilderness. It will, however, be hoping against hope to expect the members of the Chamber to find out the cause of the evil and then make up their mind to remedy it. In these days there is no sign of life or vitality in Bengal. The Bengali heart is devoid of enthusiasm, and the springs of action lie dormant, rendering the whole machinery of wordly activity out of gear. To be more explicit, we have become, as it were, heartless and lifeless. Nothing moves our heart, nothing rouses us to activity. Lord Curzon draws our attention to our sores, but how many of the members of the Chamber will direct their attention to the evil? They went to the Viceroy in their best with the hope of distinguishing themselves. Now that their purpose is served, they will pass their days, as usual, in sleep and enjoyment. As a matter of formality, they prepared an address containing a reference to current events, expecting a flattering reply

SANJIVANI,
Jan. 28th, 1899.

CHINSURA
VARTAVAHA,
Jan. 29th, 1899.

PRATIVASI,
Jan. 30th, 1899.

from Lord Curzon. But unfortunately Lord Curzon's reply has not proved palatable. But they know how to let by-gones be by-gones, and, oblivious of what has occurred, they have taken to the ordinary routine of life. But Lord Curzon's weighty words, his disparaging comparison—what has become of these? Have his touching words opened our eyes? Certainly not. No noble advice, no exalted ideal can make any impression on our heart. We are like puppets, like lifeless figures, like mere machines doing everything unconsciously—feeling nothing, doing nothing in right earnest. We have nothing like an irresistible desire to improve ourselves.

BASUMATI,
Feb. 2nd, 1899.

40. The *Basumati* of the 2nd February writes as follows with reference to Lord Curzon's reply to the address of the Bengal National Chamber of Commerce:—

In the opinion of Anglo-Indian editors, the good advice given to the Indian public by Lord Curzon in his reply to the address of the Bengal National Chamber of Commerce was somewhat out of place. We do not think so. Lord Curzon naturally took the members of the Chamber, who were well versed in industrial and commercial matters, for the representatives of the people and communicated to them his thoughts upon a vital question of the day. The speech in question bespeaks in Lord Curzon great foresight and an earnest desire to promote the welfare of the Indian people. We are glad to see that the new Viceroy has, within so short a time, mastered the details of the Indian administration.

URIYA PAPERS.

SAMBALPUR
HITAISHINI,
Nov. 23rd, 1898.

41. The *Sambalpur Hitaishini* of the 23rd November is glad to learn that His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal has put a stop to the undesirable massacre of monkeys in Puri, and has thereby earned the gratitude of the orthodox class of Hindus.

SAMBALPUR
HITAISHINI.

42. The same paper is of opinion that the order of the Inspector-General of Police to stop police investigation in all petty theft cases needs re-consideration, as *budmashes* may be encouraged thereby to carry on their trade with impunity.

SAMBALPUR
HITAISHINI.

43. The same paper complains that the Angul dâk does not reach Bamra every day, and often reaches that place after night-fall. The writer hopes that the postal authorities will notice the complaint and remove the grievance without delay.

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,

Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 4th February 1899.